

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications:

1. (Previously amended) A method of editing data in a foreign format with a native computer system, comprising:
 - converting the data in the foreign format into second data in a native format used by the native system;
 - editing the second data with the native system; and
 - altering directly the data in the foreign format independently from a conversion process to reflect changes made to the second data during editing.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising creating a list of changes made to the converted data during editing.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the altering step comprises making the changes in the list directly to the data in the foreign format.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - maintaining a first representation of the converted data in the native format before editing;
 - maintaining a second representation of the converted data in the native format after editing;and
 - comparing the first and second representations to determine the changes made to the converted data.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising converting only data in the foreign format that has a corresponding container in the native format.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising preserving data in the foreign format that cannot be represented in the native format.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the altering step is performed after editing is completed.
8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the changes included at least one of addition, deletion, or modification of the data.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising creating a representation of the converted data in memory only.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising deleting the converted data when editing is completed.
11. (Previously amended) A method of editing data in a foreign format with a native computer system, comprising:
 - a) receiving first data organized according to a foreign format;
 - b) converting the first data into second data organized according to a native format;
 - c) tracking changes made to the second data in the native format using the native computer system; and
 - d) making the tracked changes to the first data in the foreign format.
12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the first and second data comprise a plurality of entities.
13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, further comprising creating a direct relationship between entities in the first data and corresponding entities in the second data.
14. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein each entity is associated with a key value.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising:
determining the key value for each entity in the first data; and
using the same key value as the first data to identify corresponding entities in the second data.
16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein steps c) and d) comprise:
creating a list of the key values for entities in the second data that have been changed;
locating entities in the first data corresponding to the entities in the second data that have been changed based on the key value; and
making the tracked changes directly to the corresponding entities in the first data.
17. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:
maintaining a representation of each entity in the second data in the native format before editing;
maintaining a representation of each entity in the second data in the native format after editing; and
comparing the representations to determine changes made to the entities.
18. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein only entities that have been changed in the second data are changed in the first data.
19. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the changes to the second data comprise at least one of deleting an entity, adding a new entity, changing an existing entity.
20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the change comprises deleting an entity and step d) comprises locating and deleting an entity with a corresponding key value in the foreign file and deleting it.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the change comprises adding a new entity and step d) comprises creating a representation of the new entity in the foreign format, determining a key value for the new entity, and associating the representation with the new key value.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the second data in the native format is created in memory only.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, further comprising deleting the second data from memory after an editing session ends.

24. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:
determining a mapping between different entities in the first data; and
altering the mapping of the entities in the first data based on the changes.

25. (Currently amended) A method for lossless manipulation of data between different formats, comprising:

receiving a first file containing first data in a first format;
converting the data in the first file into second data in a second format;
preserving first data in the first file that cannot be represented in the second format;
changing the second data while it is in the second format; and
directly applying the changes made to the second data in the second format to the first data in the first file.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously amended) A computer useable information storage medium storing computer readable program code means for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

- a) receiving a first file containing first data in a first format;
- b) converting the first data into second data in a second format;
- c) changing the second data;
- d) tracking changes made to the second data; and
- e) altering the first data independently from the converting to reflect the tracked changes to the second data.

33. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 32, wherein the first and second data comprise a plurality of entities.

34. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 33, wherein the steps further comprise creating a direct relationship between entities in the first data and corresponding entities in the second data.

35. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 33, wherein each entity is associated with a key value.

36. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the steps further comprise:

determining the key value for each entity in the first data; and
using the same key value as the first data to identify corresponding entities in the second data.

37. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 32, wherein steps d) and e) comprises:
creating a list of the key values for entities in the second data changed during editing;
locating the corresponding entity in the first data based on the key value; and
making the change directly to the corresponding entity in the first data.

38. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 32, wherein the steps further comprise:
maintaining a representation of each entity in the second data in the native format before editing;
maintaining a representation of each entity in the second data in the native format after editing; and
comparing the representations to determine changes made to the entities.

39. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 32, wherein the steps further comprise creating a representation in the native format in memory only.

40. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 39, wherein the steps further comprise deleting the representation after an editing session ends.

41. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 32, wherein the steps further comprise:
determining a relationship between entities in the first data;
determining a mapping between the entities in the first data; and
altering the mapping of the entities in the first data based on the editing session, if necessary.

42. (Original) The computer useable information storage medium according to claim 32, wherein the steps further comprise preserving in the first file first data that is not converted into the second data.